

FEB 2 1972

DATE: February 1, 1972

To : Joshua Lederberg

FROM : John Kaplan

SUBJECT: MANNITOL, THE HEROIN-DILUENT

Dear Josh:

I am not familiar with the New York statute on mannitol, the heroin-diluent. Almost certainly, however, possession of mannitol is made a crime if it is possessed with an intent to use it as a filler for heroin. Needless to say, this is difficult to prove, but you can imagine situations in which it would be provable. The same type of law also makes possession of burglar's tools (which, of course, can be only a crowbar) a crime if the possession is with intent to use them in a burglary--or even unless there is some legitimate reason to possess these.

These laws are quite common. They by and large are not enforced and they do neither good nor harm in any amount worth speaking of.

Thank you though for sending me the interesting note from The American Chemical Society.

Cordially yours,



John Kaplan  
Professor of Law

JK:ib